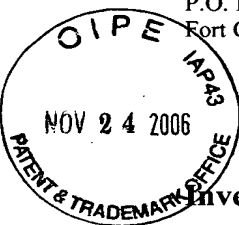


HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, Colorado 80527-2400

Attorney Docket No.: 200308654-1



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Chunqiang Tang et al. **Confirmation No.:** 6564
Serial No.: 10/705,932 **Examiner:.** Tomasz Ponikiewski
Filed: November 13, 2003 **Group Art Unit:** 2165
Title: SAMPLE-DIRECTED SEARCHING IN A PEER-TO-PEER SYSTEM

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DECLARATION OF ATTORNEY UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.131

I, Ashok Mannava, hereby declare as follows.

1. All statements set forth herein made on my personal knowledge are true, and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true.
2. I am the attorney who drafted and filed the present patent application.
3. I received a copy of the attached invention disclosure document (Exhibit A) for the present patent application via email (Exhibit B) on September 26, 2003 from Hewlett-Packard.
4. Exhibit A is a true and correct copy of the invention disclosure document received from Hewlett-Packard. The invention disclosure included four pages of invention disclosure form completed by the inventors. Section A on page 4 describes the claimed invention. The invention disclosure also included an article entitled "Peer-to-Peer Information Retrieval Using Self-Organizing Semantic Overlay Networks", also provided in Exhibit A. Sections 6,

6.2 and 7 and corresponding figures describe the claimed invention. Based at least upon the received invention disclosure, the inventors Zhichen Xu and Chunqiang Tang were in complete possession of and conceived of the invention claimed in the present application at least on September 26, 2003.

5. I relied on the information contained in the invention disclosure document, including the article entitled "Peer-to-Peer Information Retrieval Using Self-Organizing Semantic Overlay Networks" in drafting the present patent application. As such, the invention claimed in the present patent application directly correlates to the information contained in the invention disclosure document.

6. I worked reasonably hard to draft the present patent application from at least October 6, 2003 to the date at which the above-identified application was filed, November 13, 2003, as evidenced at least by the facts listed below.

a) Evidence that I worked reasonably hard to draft the present patent application from at least October 6, 2003 to the date at which the present application was filed is provided in Exhibits C-F. Exhibits C-F are emails as follows:

(1) Exhibit C is an email sent 10-6-03 providing indication from Hewlett-Packard that I was approved to prepare the present patent application;

(2) Exhibit D is an email sent 11-4-03 indicating that I was currently working on the present patent application;

(3) Exhibit E is an email sent 11-9-03 including the first draft of the present patent application;

(4) Exhibit F is an email sent 11-11-03 including comments on the first draft from the inventor; and

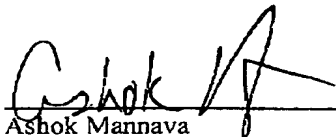
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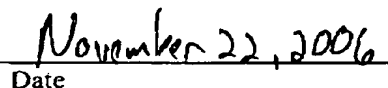
Atty Docket No.: 200308654-1
App. Ser. No.: 10/705,932

b) I continuously worked on preparing the present application while performing my other duties. I was working on at least two other patent applications filed October 31, 2003, while working on the above-mentioned patent application. One of the other patent applications was 10/697,688. The second of the other patent applications was 10/697,686. We received approval to prepare both the 10/697,686 and the 10/697,688 patent applications prior to the receiving approval for preparing the present patent application. Accordingly, the 10/697,686 and the 10/697,688 patent applications were prepared and filed prior to the present patent application. Also, I prepared and filed a response for 09/507,036 on October 29, 2003, which was the 3-month due date. Delay in preparing the present patent application is a result of preparing patent applications from Hewlett-Packard in the order approval was received and in preparing and filing responses with 3-month due dates prior to the filing of the present patent application.

c) The MPEP, section 715.07(a), states that diligence must be shown from just prior to the effective date of the reference, October 30, 2003, and ends with the date of a reduction to practice, November 13, 2003. The above-identified evidence shows diligence from at least October 29, 2003 to November 13, 2003.

7. I, Ashok Mannava, acknowledge that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both (18 U.S.C. 1001) and may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereof.


Ashok Mannava


Date